

WASIT GEN. HENRY OR GEN. ROE?

ADJUTANT-GENERAL PRODUCES WENDEL CASE DOCUMENTS.

Obtained Gov. Hughes's Permission to Lay Them Before the Court of Inquiry—Gen. Roe Recommended Letting Wendel Resign and Calling Off the Court.

The session of the military court of inquiry in the case of Capt. Louis Wendel, First Battery, N. G. N. Y., accused of extorting part of their wages from employees in the army, opened in a rather unexpected way at the army yesterday, when Adjutant-General Nelson Henry, with Gov. Hughes's permission, demanded to be sworn and read an interesting statement. Gen. Henry granted a discharge to Capt. Wendel and a dismissal of the court of inquiry and was exposed to much criticism afterward for it, especially when the Governor revoked the order. He said to the court yesterday:

"The many misstatements and varied criticisms concerning my action in regard to Capt. Wendel's resignation have remained uncorrected and unanswered, awaiting this opportunity to place before this military court the true facts in the case."

He submitted this letter from Gen. Roe, Major-General commanding, dated from the headquarters of the National Guard of New York on January 23:

I have the honor to inclose herewith an application from Capt. Louis Wendel, First Battery, N. G. N. Y., requesting that S. O. 138, A. G. O. S., 1907, concerning a court of inquiry at his request be revoked, and the resignation of Capt. Wendel from the National Guard.

For the reasons contained in my inclosure upon the subject of the court of inquiry for the court, I strongly recommend that the discharge be granted as speedily as possible. If this be done, as soon as I am advised of it by you, I will let First Lieut. John F. Ryan, Second Battery, to command the First Battery, acting under the authority of R. 48, and receipt for the property for which Capt. Wendel is responsible.

In view of all the circumstances with which you are thoroughly cognizant, I think you will agree with me that it is better to discharge Capt. Wendel at once by order, holding the matter of a full and honorable discharge, provided for in M. C. 2, in abeyance until it be ascertained that his accounts for money or for public property be correct.

Capt. Wendel's letter of resignation sets forth age and length of service as reasons for resigning. Gen. Roe's indorsement of this reads:

The offenses which Capt. Wendel asked to be inclosed into his resignation and which by the criminal authorities and he has been indicted by the Grand Jury of New York and trial is now pending. If he is guilty he will be punished in those proceedings. He has served in the National Guard more than twenty-five years, and in view of that fact and for the good of the service I make the foregoing recommendation, and further recommend that his resignation be accepted and that he be discharged at once.

"These communications," said Gen. Henry, "were received at the Adjutant-General's office January 24. Upon the same date the office received an additional communication from the commanding officer National Guard recommending that the First Battery be simultaneously disbanded."

The letter was:

I have the honor to recommend that the First Battery, N. G. N. Y., be disbanded for the following reasons: Artillery is a very expensive branch of the service and in the nature of things would rarely, if ever, be used in the National Guard. The First Battery is such that I am convinced that it would be to the very best interests of the service to disband it. The Field Horse Artillery now occupies a portion of the First Battery, and has so much equipment that it will require an armory of the size of that now occupied by the First Battery. The disbandment of the battery will do away with the values of the equipment and furnish adequate quarters for a very valuable adjunct to our service and will have a salutary effect on the entire Guard.

That letter from Gen. Roe was considered by Gen. Henry, who answered in the following terms:

The disbandment of this organization at the present time pending the proceedings and the report and action with recommendations of the court of inquiry might tend to impair the ends of justice, as it would place the members, exclusive of the officers, without the pale of the military authorities.

Gen. Henry was puzzled over what he ought to do with Capt. Wendel's resignation and he wrote to Gen. Roe on January 25:

This office is in receipt of your communication, as well as the resignation and request of Capt. Wendel. At the time you communicated with me regarding the matter, my consideration, but the more carefully I look into the subject the more puzzled I am as to what proper course to take, which will be just and equitable under the circumstances and be perfectly legal.

I believe the question of action in the case of Capt. Wendel is one that should be very carefully considered to avoid any embarrassment or misunderstanding and would appreciate having an opportunity to confer with you and, if you see fit, jointly with Col. Ladd.

There is no question in my mind but that the acceptance of an officer's resignation becomes operative and severs him from the military service upon his having received either actual or constructive notice of such acceptance.

The matter is so full of so many complications, and remembering that the Governor denied the request of Capt. Wendel to have proceedings of court of inquiry deferred until termination of criminal proceedings, I would not feel justified in taking any action unless absolutely convinced as to its legality, or submitting the matter to the Commander-in-Chief.

NO RECOUNT LEGISLATION.

THAT IS, NONE DEALING WITH THE MAYORALTY ELECTION.

But a Recount Bill May Be Passed to Deal With Future Cases—Assembly Judiciary Committee Said to Be Opposed to a Bill for Recount of Mayoralty Vote.

ALBANY, Feb. 11.—While it was generally agreed that the Republican Senators who constitute the old guard could be the cause of blocking the more drastic of the recommendations made in the Governor's message to the Legislature, it develops that there are a good many Assemblymen who are not in accord with some of the Governor's views, and unless the unexpected happens Gov. Hughes will not get a number of the recommendations he made enacted into law. Just now it is somewhat general admission that there will be no recount legislation dealing with the Mayoralty situation in New York city. There probably will be a recount bill passed, but it will only be to take care of future cases.

Immediately after the Governor's recommendations became known to the legislators there was some haste to get in bills which were thought would cover those recommendations. Senator Saxe and Assemblyman Murphy introduced the recount bill of last year, and later on Assemblyman Prentiss and Senator Saxe introduced a recount bill which had been drawn by William Irvine and ex-Judge Cohen.

Assemblyman Charles W. Reed of Albany is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which is considering the recount bills, and it is known that William Barnes, Jr., the local Republican leader, does not regard such legislation as showing good judgment from any standpoint the subject is viewed. One of the most influential members of the Assembly made this statement to-night:

"While I haven't polled the Judiciary Committee, still I know to a certainty that the sentiment of the majority of the committee is opposed to a recount bill dealing with the last New York city Mayoralty election. The situation is just this. This election was held almost eighteen months ago and the boxes have been hauled around and been in different hands. Now, what was to hinder somebody from getting access to a number of the boxes and doing some tampering? None that I can see, and I think the members of the Judiciary Committee appreciate this fact too."

"Some Republicans think it would be good politics to open the boxes and have a recount, but the majority of the members are not of that opinion. If Mr. Hearst believes he has been defrauded of the election as Mayor the same avenues are open to him as are open to any other defeated candidate—that is, the quo warranto proceedings. The recount bill would establish a precedent that would have a bad effect in the future. It would mean that in any election where the vote was close the defeated candidate would cause the man who was elected on the face of the returns to spend considerable money to get his office by defending himself from such proceedings, even where there was no intimation of fraud."

Senator John Raines several weeks ago announced that he had drawn a recount bill and that it would differ from his bill of last year in that it would be shorter. To-night it is understood that Senator Raines's bill will only amend the law so as to deal with future cases.

RAMS FERRYBOAT HUDSON CITY.

The John H. Starin Has to Tow Her Into Her Slip.

The Long Island Railroad's ferryboat Hudson City was struck and badly damaged last night by the freight steamer John H. Starin of the New Haven line. About twenty feet of the Hudson City's rail was carried away and a section of the women's cabin, in which were between fifty and a hundred women, was demolished. No one was hurt, but the ferryboat hands had a job preventing a panic.

The ferryboat drifted helplessly for twenty minutes after the collision and was carried downstream for some distance until several railroad tugs that had been whistled for and the Starin herself fastened on to her and towed her to the Long Island side.

The ferryboat left the Long Island side at 9:40 o'clock. She had to buck a tide running up and she headed downstream, hugging the shore for a block or so before swinging out. When she got opposite Flushing street she struck the Hudson City's nose toward midstream.

She had barely got under headway when the John H. Starin loomed up on her port side, bound upstream. Before the ferryboat's course could be altered the freighter had rammed her in the port side forward. A section of the rail was carried away and dropped into the river. The John H. Starin, which was apparently uninjured, backed out and prepared to give aid.

Nearly two hundred passengers got panicky, but it was soon manifest that the ferryboat had not been damaged below the waterline. A hole of sufficient size to let in a lot of the wintry gale that was blowing was ripped in the side of the cabin.

All the women passengers were sitting on the inside row of seats, away from the windows. Policeman Wilday of the East Fifty-first street station, who was on his way to report for duty, assisted in quieting the women.

Before the tugs got to the Hudson City the Starin had got a line to her. When the tugs came up they all fastened on. After the Hudson City returned to her slip the passengers were transferred to another New York bound ferryboat and the Starin went on to New Haven.

CONSCIENCE AND \$3.

Board of Education Gets Sum From Mystery Teacher.

Secretary Palmer of the Board of Education received a letter yesterday which contained a two dollar bill and a one dollar bill.

"I return these to the Board of Education because I am not entitled to them," said the unsigned letter.

"I know what employee of this department has such a tender conscience I'd try to have him promoted," said the secretary. "Perhaps he was one of those recently raised in salary against the objection of Comptroller McFie," it was suggested.

KELSEY WON'T RESIGN.

Friends Say He Has Made Up His Mind Not to Retire Under Fire.

State Superintendent of Insurance Otto Kelsey will not comply with Gov. Hughes's request for his resignation. He decided on that yesterday after conferring with several of his friends in this city.

Mr. Kelsey himself declined to say anything about the situation for publication, but his friends declare that he has determined now to stand firm and refuse to give up the office, as a matter of principle. This, they say, is practically the only course that Mr. Kelsey can take with justice to himself. He believes that he has administered the affairs of his office honestly and efficiently and cannot go out under fire.

The understanding has been that Gov. Hughes's gave Mr. Kelsey until to-day to decide what he would do. The Superintendent left this city last night for Albany, and it is expected that he will send his answer to the Governor to-day.

If Mr. Kelsey declines his decision to put somebody else in Kelsey's place he will have to bring charges against the Superintendent before the Senate. That, it is expected, will bring on a fight that will be a real test of the Governor's strength in that body.

James T. Rodgers, chairman of the Assembly Insurance Committee, visited the New York Life office yesterday and inspected the vote counting process, which has now been going on since December 18, with good prospects that it will be prolonged into the summer months.

The members of the old Armstrong committee are to meet in Albany to-day to suggest amendments which will prevent in the future repetition of the present vote counting fiasco, and Mr. Rodgers, it is understood, was looking for some first hand information.

INFERNAL MACHINE FOR WITTE

Found in His Bedroom Chimney—Timed to Go Off While He Slept.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 12.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Telegraph says that an infernal machine was discovered in the chimney of a bedroom in Count Witte's house just after midnight.

It was timed to explode in two hours, when the Count and Countess would have gone to bed.

Count Witte, who is in indifferent health, was being visited by a doctor and two friends when the discovery was made. The Countess had gone to a theatre.

KAISER'S DAUGHTER IN MISHAP.

Her Carriage Runs Over a Boy and Policemen Are Made to Help Her.

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A bond was placed at \$10,000 in each case. All of the defendants gave bond.

A new term of the United States Court begins to-morrow and the defendants will be called upon in a few days to plead to the indictments.

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Executors of McCullough's Will Are Beaten on Appeal.

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Justices MacLean and Amend ruled that the demurrer should have been overruled. Justice Gillespie, their associate on the Appellate Term bench, dissents from this view and in his minority opinion remarks that if the Court is to recognize such claims as the present one executors will find themselves liable in the future for such unnecessary expenses. The decision will probably be appealed again.

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